

Dr. Burgess Weekly Address October 12, 2018

Reducing Maternal Mortality Across the U.S.

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

In Texas and around the country, rising rates of maternal mortality have created cause for concern. Recently, I chaired an Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee hearing to examine current reporting and data standards as we seek to reduce maternal mortality in the United States.

During the hearing, we heard personal stories and insights from professionals who are on the front lines of this issue. I am grateful to those who contributed to this important discussion, and especially to the grieving families who were willing to share their story with members of the Health Subcommittee.

Having spent nearly three decades as an OB/GYN, I believe it should be a national goal to eliminate all preventable maternal mortality – even a single maternal death is too many. All too often we read about stories of seemingly healthy pregnant women who are thrilled to be having a child, and to everyone's surprise, suffers severe complications, or death, during pregnancy, birth, or immediately thereafter. The death of a new or expecting mother is a tragic event that devastates everyone involved, but in many cases, these are preventable scenarios.

As we consider this issue, it is imperative that we have accurate data and reporting. Texas is a prime example of a state that has enacted legislation to create and sustain a maternal mortality and morbidity task force. Our state has put much time, effort, and funding into reviewing maternal deaths in order to identify trends in their various causes, such as severe bleeding and infections after childbirth.

As Chairman of the Health Subcommittee, I am committed to analyzing the data, asking the right questions, and advancing meaningful solutions to end maternal mortality in Texas and around the country. This is an effort we can all support. To learn more about the Health Subcommittee hearing on this topic, please visit [EnergyCommerce.house.gov](https://energycommerce.house.gov).

As always, I appreciate your comments and your questions on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family, may God bless our mothers, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.